(d) the details of remedial steps suggested by the experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the information received from the State Government, the red soil disease in coconut has not been reported in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Agricultural Reforms

912. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to introduce new agricultural reforms;

(b) if so, whether there is no shortage of foodgrains in the country at present, and there is excess stock, which has created problems for storage;

(c) whether this excess of foodgrains has necessitated corporate management in agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the agriculture sector, to meet the situation of excess foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken several major initiatives in the recent past to accelerate the pace of agricultural development.

(b) to (d) The Government has announced a National Policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains to reduce storage and transit losses at farm and commercial level, and to modernize the system of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in India. The Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations have taken up measures for augmenting storage capacity and created capacity of 2.78 lakh tonnes (up to December, 2001) against the target of 3.61 lakh tonnes (2001-02). A credit linked subsidy scheme for construction of cold storages

has been launched and sanction has been given for creation of 21 lakh tonnes capacity in cold storages. The Central Sector Scheme of capital investment subsidy for construction/renovation/expansion of rural godown is also in operation. An outlay of Rs. 70 crore each is proposed to be provided for these two schemes in 2002-03.

Other measures proposed to be adopted by the Government during 2002-03, include increased allocations for BPL families; launching of a major food for work programme under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); allocation of 30 lakh tonnes of free foodgrains to States for relief works in areas affected by natural calamities; open market sales of 30 lakh tonnes compared to 5.5 lakh tonnes in 2000-2001; and enhanced incentives for export of foodgrians. Diversification of agriculture towards oilseeds, pulses and horticulture is also being encouraged.

Slaughtering of cattle

913. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the last census of livestock carried out in the country and what was the cattle population as per that census, State-wise;

(b) how many cattle-heads have been slaughtered since 1992, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that inspite of legal and illegal slaughtering the cattle population is not depleting; if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) what steps are taken to prevent illegal slaughtering of cattle-heads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The last livestock census was conducted in 1997 in the country. The cattle population is 198 million (provisional) and state-wise break up is given as per Statement. (*See* below)

(b) Slaughter of animals is a State subject and the data in respect of slaughtered cattle-heads is not available.